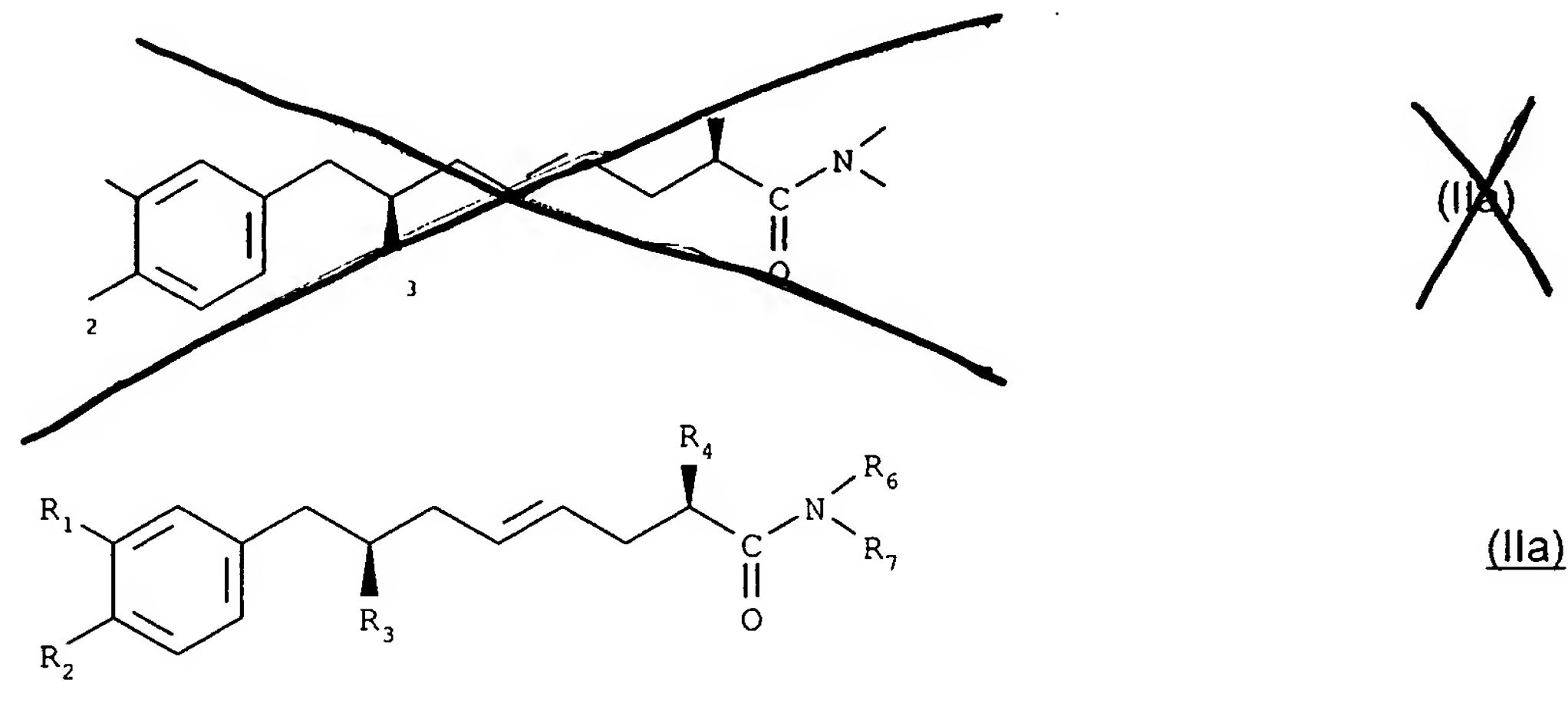


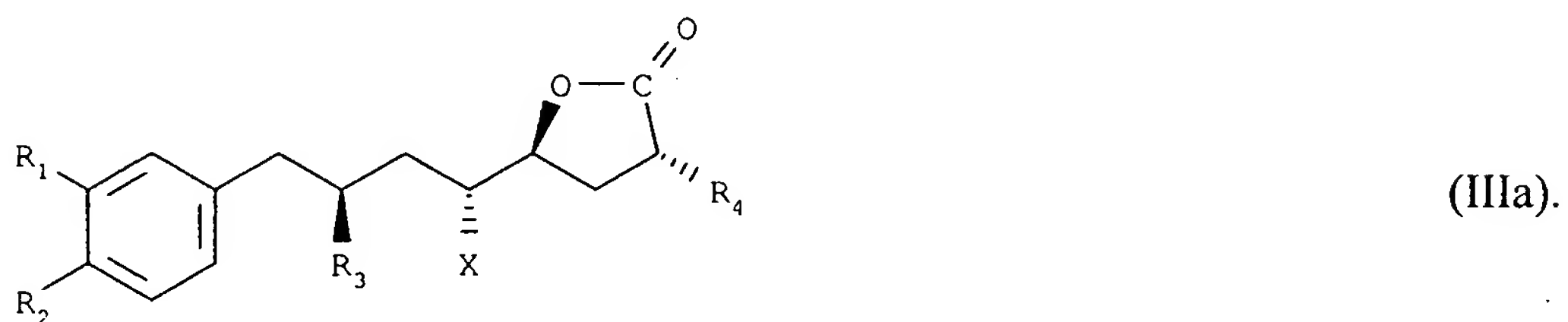
Amendments to the Specification

Page 8, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 14-17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In this process step, if compounds of formula IIa

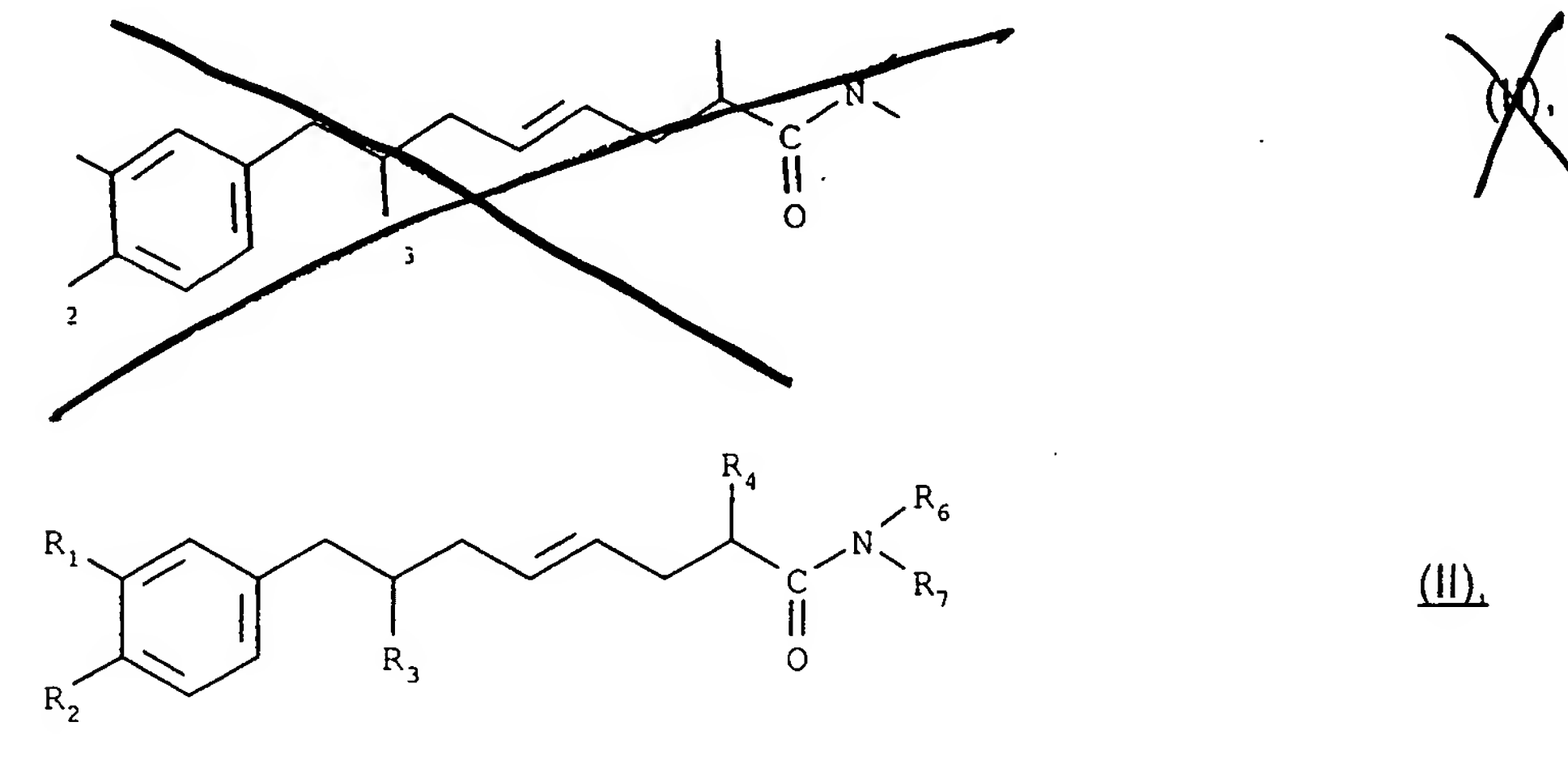


are used, compounds of formula IIIa are obtained

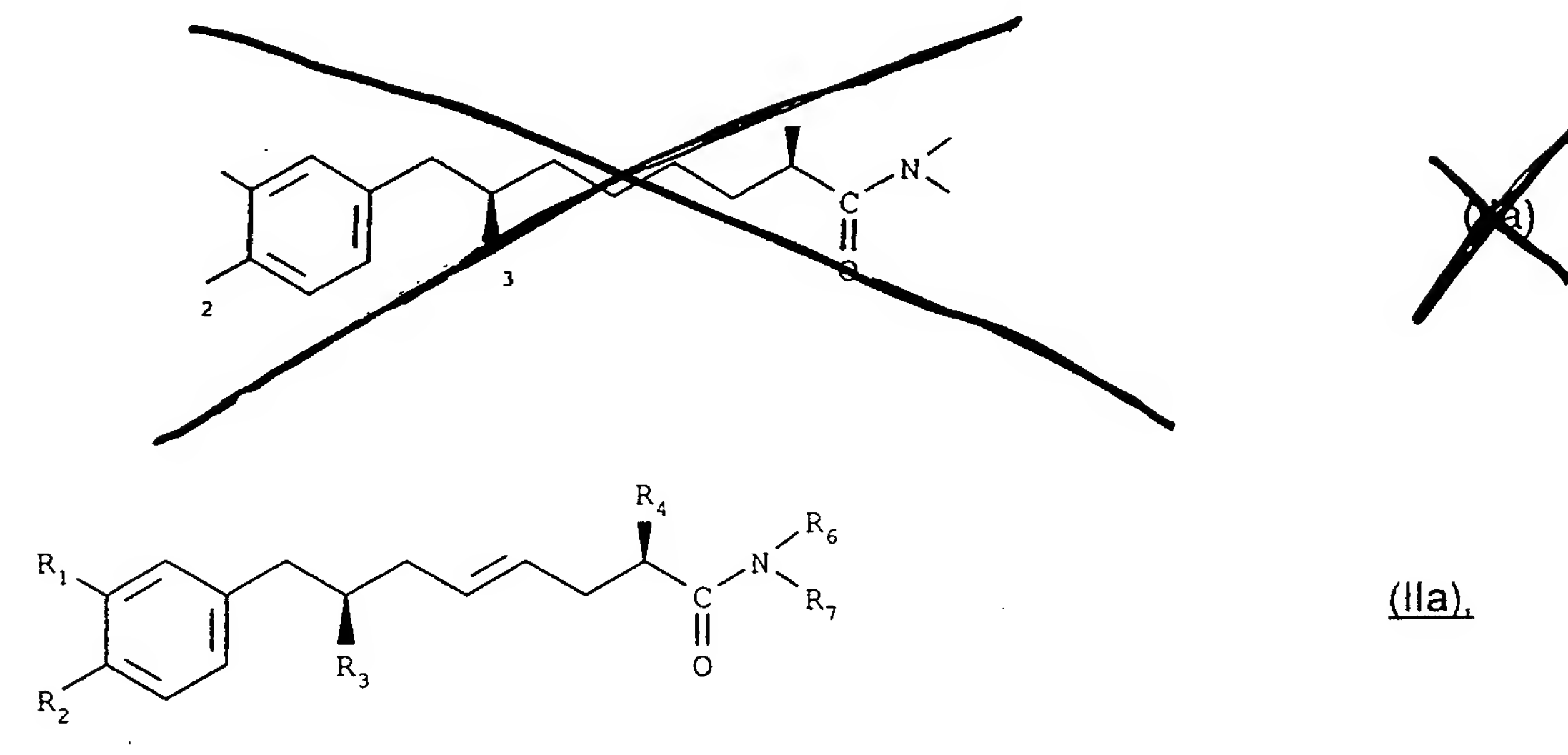


Page 10, please replace the paragraph spanning line 21 to page 11, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A further object of the invention is thus represented by compounds of formula II



and in particular of formula IIa



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_6 and R_7 are as defined above, including the preferences. In an especially preferred embodiment, R_1 is 1-methoxyprop-3-yloxy, R_2 is methoxy, R_3 and R_4 are isopropyl and R_6 is methyl or ethyl, R_7 is methyl, ethyl or methoxy, or R_6 and R_7 together are tetramethylene, pentamethylene or $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$.